

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 A-01 PER-01 OC-06 CCO-00

MMO-01 FS-01 DODE-00 /071 W

-----040758Z 069343 /16

R 031752Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

JCS WASHDC

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STUTTGART 971

JCS FOR J-3

CINCPAC FOR EALG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN LIAISON GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: STUTTGART 883

1. SUMMARY: EUROPEAN LIAISON GROUP (ELG) HELD SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING MAY 31 - JUNE 1 HOSTED BY EMBASSY ATHENS AND ATTENDED BY REPS FROM EMBASSIES ATHENS, ANKARA, BEIRUT, NICOSIA AND RABAT. PARTICIPANTS AGREED ON SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS BASED PARTICULARLY ON LESSONS LEARNED BEIRUT AND ASMARA. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED CONSIDER REVAMPING E AND E MANUAL, REVISING F-77 AND SITREP FORMATS. DISCUSSIONS ALSO UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF STATE-DEFENSE INTERFACE (MILITARY ANNEX), VALUE OF "FLAG FOCUS" EXERCISE CONCEPT, COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS, AND NEED TO FOCUS ON WARDEN SYSTEM AND SAFEHAVEN DESIGNATION. END SUMMARY.

2. BASED ON ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COORDINATING EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION (E AND E) CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, AND THE NEAR EAST, THE EUROPEAN LIAISON GROUP (ELG) INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM SELECTED POSTS IN ITS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING HOSTED BY EMBASSY ATHENS ON MAY 31 - JUNE 1. PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMBASSIES ATHENS, ANKARA, BEIRUT, NICOSIA AND RABAT, ASSESSED BOTH THE BEIRUT AND ASMARA (REF STUTTGART 840) OPERATIONS, THE "FLAG FOCUS" CONFIDENTIAL

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EXERCISE (STUTTGART 159), CURRENT E AND E PLANNING SYSTEM AND MADE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. ATHENS ELG MEETING PROVIDED FIRST OPPORTUNITY DEBRIEF EMBASSY BEIRUT STAFF MEMBERS ON LESSONS LEARNED. BEIRUT EVACUATION AND ASMARA "WITHDRAWAL" (STUTTGART 840) SERVED THROUGHOUT MEETING AS PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC BACKGROUND FOR WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS OF E AND E SUBJECTS. EMBASSY BEIRUT, FOR EXAMPLE, POINTED OUT HOW INVALID ASSUMPTIONS CAN HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION. IT WAS ASSUMED INITIALLY THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAINTAIN MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL THAN IT DID AND THAT SYRIA WOULD REMAIN HOSTILE. BOTH ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTIONS HAD STRONG IMPACT ON OPTIONS FOR USING EVACUATION FACILITIES AND EVACUATION ROUTES. CONFERENCE GAINED CLEAR IMPRESSION REFINEMENT OF OPTIONS LESS PRECARIOUS THAN MISGUIDED ASSUMPTIONS AND THAT "DYNAMISM" IN ADJUSTING PLAN OPTIONS

OFFERS BEST PROSPECT FOR SUCCESSFUL E AND E OPERATION.

4. E AND E MANUAL. WHILE AGREEING THAT E AND E MANUAL PROVIDED IMPORTANT GUIDELINES AND STANDARDIZED FORMAT, PARTICIPANTS SAW NEED FOR CONSIDERABLE UP-DATING, REVISION, AND REVAMPING. ITS STYLE AND APPROACH HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY CONTEMPORARY COMMUNICATIONS AND PERSONNEL PROCESSING TECHNIQUES. IT HAS ALSO BEEN OVERTAKEN BY OTHER EVENTS SUCH AS PLANNING AGAINST TERRORISM AND CIVIL DISTURBANCE WHICH HAVE A SEPARATE AND CONTINUING RATIONALE OVER AND ABOVE E AND E PLANNING. IN SHORT, EMERGENCIES AND EVACUATIONS SHOULD BE LOOKED AT SEPARATELY. THE SHEER BULKINESS OF THE E AND E PLAN ITSELF, BASED ON THE MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS, MAKES IT EXTREMELY UNWIELDY FOR USE DURING AN EVACUATION. THE E AND E MANUAL ALSO LACKS THE NECESSARY CREDIBILITY BECAUSE IT IS OUTDATED. ELG THEREFORE
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RECOMMENDS FORMATION OF A WASHINGTON - LEVEL TASK FORCE TO FURTHER CONSIDER THIS ISSUE WHICH WILL BE DEALT WITH IN FURTHER DETAIL IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

5. STATE-DEFENSE INTERFACE (MILITARY ANNEX). ACTIVE INTERRELATIONSHIP NEEDED AT ALL LEVELS (POST, ELG AND WASHINGTON). MILITARY ANNEX HAS PROVEN VALUABLE IN PROVIDING CONCISE SUMMARY OF POST'S E AND E PLAN. LEBANON PLANNING AND EXECUTION BY MILITARY COMPONENTS INVOLVED BASED ON BEIRUT MILITARY ANNEX SUBMITTED WITHIN 3 DAYS AFTER ELG REQUEST. ANNEX MODEL REMAINS CURRENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED FOR POSTS ENTERING INTO SENSITIVE SITUATIONS.

6. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS. PARTICIPANTS AT ATHENS MEETING REPEATEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS. ELG USED OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF PARTICIPANTS ON DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST IN "EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE" CONCEPT. ELG WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN DEPARTMENT'S 124136 REGARDING SPECIFICS OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED AND ITS USE.

7. IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF POTENTIAL EVACUEES. CURRENT FORMAT OF F-77 REPORT DOES NOT FULLY SATISFY PLANNING NEEDS. REPORT MUST BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT "THIRD COUNTRY" EVACUEE STATISTICS BY NATIONALITY, AND DEFINE AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE COORDINATED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEIR SAFETY AND

EVACUATION. PHASED COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES (AIR-CRAFT AND SHIPS) BY EITHER STATE OR DEFENSE IS BASED UPON EVACUEE NUMBERS. AS SITUATION BECOMES MORE DELICATE OR SENSITIVE IN A REGION, AN ADDITIONAL ESTIMATE OF "PROBABLE" EVACUEES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
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DUAL NATIONALITY AND THIRD COUNTRY ACCOMMODATION OF ITS OWN NATIONALS, BECOMES VERY IMPORTANT. DETAILS OF PROPOSED REVISION OF F-77 REPORT FORMAT FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STUTTGART 971

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8. SITREPS. ELG RECOMMENDS THAT STANDARDIZED FORMAT BE DEVELOPED FOR SITUATION REPORTING FOR POSTS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS WITH EMERGENCY EVACUATION IMPLICATIONS. PRESENTLY THE FORMAT VARIES WIDELY WITH CERTAIN POSTS EMPHASIZING SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL/ MILITARY ANALYSIS WITHOUT STATED IMPLICATIONS FOR E AND E SITUATION. HOWEVER, KINSHASA (ZAIRE) HAS STANDARD FORMAT WITH CONTRIBUTIONS KEY ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY TEAM. IT COULD BE USEFUL GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING STANDARDIZED SITREP FORMAT. GOAL IS STRUCTURED REPORT THAT PRECLUDES MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION, AND ELIMINATES UNNECESSARY MESSAGE TRAFFIC. THIS SUBJECT WILL BE DEALT WITH IN SEPTTEL.

9. WARDEN SYSTEM. IN MOST SITUATIONS STRUCTURED WARDEN SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL E AND E EXECUTION, ESPECIALLY FOR POSTS WITH LARGE AMCIT POPULATION. SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY, SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND, WHERE IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH PRIMARY MISSIONS, US MILITARY COMMUNITIES HAVING DAILY CONTACT WITH AMCITS. PREBRIEFING AND INVOLVEMENT OF CITIZENS COMMITTEE DURING PLANNING, AND ON RECURRING BASIS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL. PROPER ORIENTATION WILL DEFUSE ANXIETY AND ALARMIST TENDENCIES USED AS JUSTIFICATION BY MANY POSTS AS REASON TO IGNORE WARDEN SYSTEM WHICH IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT FOR CONTROL OF EVACUEES DURING CRISIS SITUATION.

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10. SAFEHAVEN. EARLY DESIGNATION OF SAFEHAVEN ESSENTIAL FOR LOCAL RECEPTION PREPARATION. FOR PLANNING, RECOMMEND POSTS INCLUDE DESIRED SAFEHAVENS IN THEIR E AND E PLAN. DEPARTMENT SHOULD DESIGNATE SAFEHAVEN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE OR WHEN SITUATION HAS ENTERED WARNING PHASE. DESIGNATION MUST INCLUDE DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNDING GUIDANCE. OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF ATHENS DURING ASMARA OPERATION NOT RECEIVED UNTIL AFTER FIRST AIRCRAFT ENROUTE, WITH NO INFO RE FUNDING. POST PLANS FOR CONDUCTING SAFEHAVEN OPERATIONS MUST INCLUDE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN WITH ON-SCENE PERSONNEL, STANDARDIZED PROCESSING PROCEDURES AND ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL WITH NECESSARY THIRD COUNTRY LANGUAGE SKILLS. PREVIOUS ATHENS INVOLVEMENT PROVEN VERY EFFICIENT.

11. EXERCISE "FLAG FOCUS." ELG "FLAG FOCUS" ROME EXERCISE (STUTTGART 159) DESCRIBED AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. SPECIFIC REFERENCE MADE TO ITS PRACTICAL TRAINING VALUE AS PREPARATION FOR THE ASMARA WITHDRAWAL. "FLAG FOCUS" LESSONS LEARNED CONSISTENT WITH BEIRUT AND ASMARA EXPERIENCES LEADING TO CONSENSUS THAT SIMILAR SUCH EXERCISES, POSSIBLY LINKED TO ELG CONFERENCE, BE CONDUCTED ON FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS FOR SMALL, SELECT NUMBER, I.E., SENSITIVE POSTS WHICH MIGHT BECOME CANDIDATES FOR EMERGENCY EVACUATION.

12. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

A) WASHINGTON-SPONSORED TASK FORCE SHOULD REVIEW AND REVISE E AND E MANUAL. CABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW.

B) F-77 REPORTING FORMAT ON POTENTIAL EVACUEES SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED BY DEPARTMENT. CABLE SUGGESTIONS FOLLOW.
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C) DEPARTMENT SHOULD DEVELOP MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND STANDARDIZED SITREP REPORTING FORMAT.

D) DEPARTMENT SHOULD FORMALIZE DEBRIEFING REQUIREMENT AS FOLLOW-ON TO ALL EVACUATIONS.

E) POSTS AND DEPARTMENT SHOULD COORDINATE EARLY

DESIGNATION AS SAFEHAVEN WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDING
GUIDANCE.

F) WARDEN SYSTEM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED
BY ALL POSTS.

G) STATE AND DEFENSE SHOULD EXPEDITE AGREEMENT ON AN
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE. CABLE FOLLOWS.

H) "FLAG FOCUS" TYPE EXERCISES RECOMMENDED FOR
USE BY ALL LIAISON GROUPS.

13. THIS IS COORDINATED ELG MESSAGE.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2281074
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN LIAISON GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS
TAGS: AEMR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aea24685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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